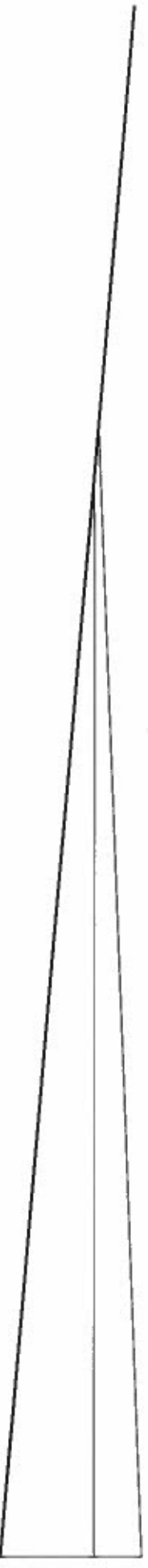


Renaissance School Services

A Leading School Turnaround Operator



Renaissance Background

- ▶ Founded May, 2006
- ▶ Since 2000, Renaissance's senior partners have worked in some 30+ schools requiring turnaround, including the lowest performing schools in CT, DE, GA, MA, MD, MI, PA, and SC
- ▶ Have developed a number of tools, techniques, processes, and systems to help struggling schools
- ▶ Richard O'Neill was the only K-12 member of the Board of Mass Insight for eight years

Our Schools

- ▶ We currently operate three schools – two in Michigan, one in New Jersey.
 - Detroit– Woodward Academy
 - Southfield – Taylor Academy
- ▶ All Renaissance schools are turnaround schools, no exceptions. Every school we have taken on is on state probation or has received a notice of closure or a notice of threat of closure.
- ▶ Saving schools is our specialty.

General Observations about Turnaround

- ▶ Poorly performing schools suffer from myriad problems that must be solved in conjunction and in collaboration with the school team
- ▶ School turnaround is an intense effort that requires specialized skills, people, and tools
- ▶ Research in the field calls for specialized practitioners and new approaches by districts
- ▶ Turnaround is never about fixing one thing, or it would have already been fixed
- ▶ Turnaround takes some time
- ▶ Statistically, most internal turnarounds do not work

Renaissance Model

- ▶ We do not come to the school with a pre-defined curriculum, staffing model, or academic design
- ▶ We do have a specific leadership model
- ▶ We identify the strengths and weaknesses of the particular school and begin making improvements on both, immediately
- ▶ Renaissance begins working with existing staff, with the goal of identifying and keeping staff who have the will and capacity to contribute
- ▶ Our method is to observe, make judgments with the school team about discrete functions in the school, draw on our systems, install improvements, and monitor the implementation
- ▶ We are highly collaborative and transparent
- ▶ We build capacity in the leadership and faculty of the building

Defining a Turnaround's Success

- ▶ There is no standard accepted definition of school turnaround's success. There is only one that is statistically based that we have seen, and one we work with:
 - A Basis Policy Research paper declared a standard to be that if a school began in the bottom decile of its state and within five years had surpassed the 50% percentile, it had turned around.

Multiple authoritative resources consider school turnaround to be the most difficult work in K-12 education, including Arne Duncan US Secretary of Education. Most charter school operators eschew it.

How are an Academy & RSS Held Accountable?

- ▶ Clear performance agreements are negotiated between the authorizer and the academy board, and between the board and the management company.
- ▶ Performance reviews by the authorizer are conducted annually.



Questions

For more information please visit:

www.rsservices.org

